

Joint Meeting of the
IOWA MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION
and the
IOWA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL
May 17, 2017, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
West Des Moines Learning Resource Center, Board Room
3550 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, Iowa
MEETING MINUTES

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Bouska	Geoffrey Lauer (phone)
Jody Eaton	Senator Liz Mathis
Representative David Heaton	John Parmeter
Kathryn Johnson	Patrick Schmitz
Sharon Lambert	Jennifer Sheehan

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Peter Brantner	Brett McLain
Thomas Broeker	Representative Scott Ourth
Senator Mark Costello	Rebecca Peterson
Marsha Edgington	Rebecca Schmitz
Betty King	Marilyn Seemann

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Teresa Bomhoff	Todd Noack (phone)
Kenneth Briggs Jr. (phone)	Tammy Nyden
Jim Cornick	Harry Olmstead
Jim Donoghue	Carole Police
George Estle	Donna Richard-Langer
Kathleen Goines (phone)	Brad Richardson (phone)
Julie Kalambokidis (phone)	Jim Rixner
Michael Kaufmann	Lee Ann Russo (phone)
Gary Keller (phone)	Dennis Sharp
Earl Kelly	DJ Swope
Anna Killpack	Michele Tilotta
Sharon Lambert	Jennifer Vitko
Todd Lange (phone)	Tracy White (phone)
Brenda Lechner	Kimberly Wilson

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jim Chesnik	Craig Matzke
Kris Graves	LeAnn Moskowitz
Amber Lewis	

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Theresa Armstrong	MHDS, Bureau Chief Community Services & Planning
Jill Cook	Amerigroup
Judy Davis	NAMI Iowa, Office of Consumer Affairs
Becky Harker	Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council
Jan Heikes	MHDS, Community Services & Planning
Sandy Hurtado-Peters	Department of Management
Julie Jetter	MHDS, Community Services & Planning
Char Jones	Disability Rights Iowa
Julie Maas	MHDS, Community Services & Planning/CDD
Sandy Richards	Hillcrest Family Services
Flora Schmidt	Iowa Behavioral Health Association
Peter Schumacher	MHDS, Community Services & Planning/CDD
Rick Shults	Division Administrator, Mental Health and Disability Services

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

MHDS Commission Chair John Parmeter and Mental Health Planning Council Chair Teresa Bomhoff called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm and led introductions.

Welcome – Rick Shults

Rick welcomed everyone to the meeting and said this is a unique gathering of passionate stakeholders with different perspectives and organizations coming together to move things forward, and that this does not happen often. Rick said these two groups deserve a lot of credit for their work, and thanked the members of the Commission and Planning Council on behalf of the Department of Human Services.

MHDS Commission Overview – John Parmeter

John said the MHDS Commission was created by state statute, and its membership is prescribed by Iowa Code. The Commission must be composed of representatives from counties, providers, MHDS Regions, Department designees, consumers of services and their family members, advocates, and non-voting legislative members.

John said the Commission is responsible for making certain recommendations to the Department on changes or improvements to the mental health and disability services (MHDS) system. The Commission is also responsible for adopting administrative rules relating to mental health or disability programs.

MHPC Overview – by Teresa Bomhoff

Teresa Bomhoff shared an overview of the Mental Health Planning Council and its activities. She noted several differences between the MHDS Commission and the Council:

- The Council is authorized by federal law and required as a condition of Iowa receiving federal Community Mental Health Block Grant funds. Members are elected according to Council bylaws. The Commission is authorized by Iowa Code and members are appointed by the Governor.
- The Council has 33 members; the Commission has 18 voting members and 4 legislative members.
- The Council meets bi-monthly (six times a year); the Commission meets monthly.

The Council has three purposes:

1. To review Iowa's Mental Health Block Grant Plan and make recommendations to DHS.
2. To serve as an advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbance and their families, and other individuals with mental illness.
3. To monitor, review, and evaluate, not less than once each year, the allocation and adequacy of mental health service within the state.

Planning Council Membership:

- Not less than fifty percent of the members of the Council are individuals who are not State employees or providers of mental health services.
- Seven members represent the principal State agencies responsible for mental health, education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice, housing, social services, and the State Medicaid Agency
- Six members represent public and private entities concerned with the need, planning, operation, funding, and use of mental health services and related support services
- Six members represent adults in recovery who have lived experience with serious mental illness (who are receiving or have received mental health services)
- Four members represent family members of adults with serious mental illness
- Six members represent parents, guardians, or primary caretakers of children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbance
- Four members represent other individuals with an interest in mental health issues
 - In 2010 the Iowa Legislature acted to require that the membership include a military veteran who is knowledgeable concerning the behavioral and mental health issues of veterans
 - To improve coordination between mental health service and substance abuse services, the Council now includes a representative from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Teresa noted that the Planning Council's bylaws require at least three standing committees. The Executive Committee composed of the Planning Council's officers, the Nominations Committee which recommends applicants for membership to the Planning Council, and the Monitoring and Oversight Committee, which has developed a list of priorities for MHDS.

Teresa spoke about some of the projects the Planning Council has been working on over the past year.

Iowa Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council Overview – Becky Harker

Becky thanked the Commission and Planning Council for inviting her to speak. The Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is a federally funded quasi-state agency. Funding for the DD Council passes through DHS, but it functions independently. The DD Council was created as the result of executive action by Governor Ray. The DD Council has a federal mandate to engage in advocacy for systems change, to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities have services in the community, culturally competent resources, and that they can live independently in communities they choose.

The DD Council has a prescriptive membership, much like the Planning Council and the Commission. 60% of the members must be people with disabilities and their family members, and within that 60%, one third must be individuals with developmental disabilities, one third must be family members, and one third can be either. In addition to that there are mandated agencies that must be represented, including Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME), the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA), Iowa Department of

Public Health (IDPH), The Department of Education (DE), Disability Rights Iowa (DRI), and The University of Iowa Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD). The Governor appoints all of these members.

The DD Council has an advocacy project called ID Action, which is focused on informing and mobilizing people with disabilities. Information can be found at IDAction.org. InfoNET is one of the Council's publications. InfoNET informs people on issues that affect people with disabilities, but does not take a stance on them. They publish stories periodically throughout the year on policy issues that affect people with disabilities. Becky said they have seen growth in people coming to self-advocate. Individuals are meeting with legislators and articulating their wishes and needs. Issues lately have included voting, transportation, and accessibility issues. The transportation need is too great for public transportation to meet alone, and there is a need for more accessible resources for travel.

Becky said they have had big gatherings at the Capitol, but they are moving away from that to encourage individuals to develop a relationship with their legislators at home and not just one day a year in Des Moines.

Becky mentioned that she is retiring, and the DD Council is working to find a replacement currently.

Becky mentioned the Make Your Mark Conference for people with disabilities at Honey Creek Golf Course this fall. This year, they will be discussing the HCBS Settings rules, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and managed care for people with disabilities. Becky said some people are more engaged than others, and many are fearful of change around the changes going on.

Becky said the DD Council is also working with the Long Term Care Ombudsman's Office to create a managed care toolkit to serve as a resource for individuals with questions.

Teresa Bomhoff asked if Rik Shannon would also be moving on. Becky said Rik did not indicate any plans to change positions.

Tammy Nyden asked if the conferences and programming are geared towards adults only, or if they include information on children. Becky answered that they had not had any youth attend last year, and this year's sessions are geared more towards adults. Becky said she would love to see more programming on the transition period between childhood and adulthood.

Representative Heaton asked if Autism is a new effort or if the DD Council had been working on that for a long time. Becky answered that the DD Council had been working on it for a long time. Becky said a lot of their programming is on finding services and self-advocacy.

John Parmeter thanked Becky Harker for her years of service and for her advocacy on the DD Council.

Veteran Directed HCBS – Cara Ferch

Cara Ferch thanked the Commission and Planning Council for inviting them to present.

Cara Ferch presented a PowerPoint Presentation on Veteran Directed Home and Community-Based Services (VD HCBS).

Representative Heaton asked what the hourly rate for in-home workers was. Cara answered that the Veterans' Administration (VA) sets a monthly allowance, and the veteran can decide who to hire and how much to pay them as long as it fits within that monthly allowance.

Ken Briggs said a major barrier for many veterans is getting their VA eligibility card when they are discharged.

Teresa Bomhoff asked if they cover Kossuth County where her father lives. Cara said the program is statewide, but individuals need to be enrolled at the Iowa City VA. DJ Swope said he could choose to enroll with Iowa City, and that is the entry point for this program right now. This program will not affect other assistance programs like social security.

Teresa asked how this program compares to HCBS waiver services. Cara answered that she had not compared VD HCBS with Medicaid waiver services.

Harry Olmstead asked if VD HCBS covers durable medical equipment. Cara answered that they do not cover copays, but do provide coverage for durable medical equipment as long as it's not already covered through the VA.

John Parmeter asked how many people are currently enrolled, and how many do they anticipate enrolling once all three VA medical centers are participating. Cara answered that there are currently three individuals enrolled, but there is no limit for the program, and the program will grow as need grows.

Representative Heaton asked if the provider chosen by the veteran would have to pass a background check, and how long the hiring process takes. Cara says there are checks into criminal history, sexual offender, dependent adult abuse, and child abuse. There is also a check to ensure the provider is not prohibited from providing Medicaid services. Cara said the check could go through in a few days, or as long as six weeks. The VA works hard to make sure veterans are not caught without services if the background check takes longer than what would be ideal.

MHDS Regions Update – Jody Eaton, Jennifer Vitko, and Kim Wilson

Jody Eaton presented a PowerPoint Presentation on MHDS Regions' service development over the last year.

Jennifer Vitko presented on residential mental health crisis services in MHDS Regions.

Teresa Bomhoff asked about lengths of stay in crisis residential services. Jennifer Vitko said currently, these crisis residential settings are accredited for different lengths of stay, and many are considering pursuing accreditation for longer stays.

Jim Rixner expressed concern with the payment structure for crisis services.

Representative Heaton expressed concern with how long it was taking for Medicaid MCOs to agree to a rate for these services given that they keep people out of more acute and more expensive treatment settings. Rick Shults said the Department and the MCOs are working to get the codes and rates finished and moving forward.

Kathy Johnson asked how the providers, MHDS Regions, and Medicaid MCOs would agree on a braided funding structure. Jennifer Vitko answered that they would be entering into contracts to make sure that services are being reimbursed.

Teresa Bomhoff expressed concern with the level of inpatient hospitalization for individuals with mental illness in Polk County.

There was a discussion on individuals with mental illness and county jails.

Patrick Schmitz encouraged crisis providers to work towards accepting individuals who had recent issues with substance use as providers are often unable to accept these individuals.

There was a discussion about mental health services for children.

Kim Wilson spoke about Quality Services Development and Assessment (QSDA).

Legislative Panel – Representative David Heaton and Senator Liz Mathis

Senator Mathis thanked the Commission and Planning Council for inviting her and Representative Heaton to this meeting. Representative Heaton said the General Assembly had done some important things to help MHDS Regions be more secure in their funding, and support their services.

Representative Heaton and Senator Mathis spoke about the process of finding a compromise for MHDS Regional funding this year, and the work that will have to be done in the future.

Patrick asked the rationale for capping MHDS Regions fund balance at 20% vs 25% for Regions with more than 100,000 people. Senator Mathis said Senator Feenstra, who is the chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, worked with several county supervisors as well as Senators Bolkcom and Jochum to come to the bill that was ultimately passed. Teresa Bomhoff expressed concern with the long-term implications of the funding structure that is currently in place.

There was a discussion on the ability for MHDS Regions to plan for the development of future services and braided funding.

There was a discussion on the possibility of a federal Medicaid block grant and the implications for Iowa's MHDS system.

Geoff Lauer said that the Medicaid expansion extended coverage to many Iowans, and asked if a block grant for Medicaid would negatively impact individuals in the expansion population. Representative Heaton said Iowa would have to make choices about how best to spend the funds granted to the state, and that may mean changing eligibility criteria, but mental health parity would remain intact as that was in effect before the Affordable Care Act was passed. Senator Mathis expressed concern with the lack of insurers on Iowa's Health Insurance Exchange.

There was a discussion on private health insurance exchanges, and IA Health Link.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peter Schumacher.